(b) The Seventh Five Year Plan provided for an annual equivalent growth rate of 2.5 per cent p.a. in value added in the agricultural sector and 5.5 per cent in value added in the manufacturing sector for the five year period as a whole

(c) The primary factor of shortfall in attaining growth rates was the adverse weather conditions in the country

(d) For attaining the stipulated growth rates priority is being given to agriculture, irrigation and infrastructure in the next two years of the Seventh Five Year Plan.

Electronic voting machine

1641. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA:
SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to amend the election law shortly to enable the use of electronic voting machines from the next general elections onwards;

(b) if so, by when the proposed amendments are likely to be made in the election law;

(c) whether the rural people in the country will be able to cast their votes through electronic machines; and

(d) Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI HANS RAJ BHARDWAJ): (a) Government have taken a preliminary decision to replace the ballot paper system with the electronic voting machines. However, Government are to finalise the other arrangements including the financial commitments involved in the matter. The proposal referred to in the question will arise only after the finalisation of the other arrangements.

(b) No time-table has been drawn up for this purpose.

(c) Yes, Sir. The electronic voting machine is very simple to operate. It is not expected to pose any problems to the rural voter. In fact, when the machine was put to use earlier as an experimental measure, no difficulty was experienced by any one including the rural voter.

(d) Government is keen to introduce electronic voting machines at least in some of the key constituencies in the country, in view of certain definite advantages in this system over the existing ballot paper system.

Crash involving IAF fighter plane

1642. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the press report appeared in "The Hindustan Times" dated 13th January, 1988 to the effect that the Indian Airforce Fighter Plane crashed near Tejpur on the 12th January, 1988; and

(b) if so, the estimated loss of life and property?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) An IAF aircraft crashed near Tejpur airfield on the 11th January 1988. The aircraft was destroyed and the pilot of the aircraft was killed. There was minor damage to a hut and a woman was injured.

Regularisation of daily wages workers

1643. SHRI B. V. ABDULLA KOYA:
SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of daily wages workers who have been regularised by the Ministry of Science and Technology during the last three years;

(b) the number of daily wagers who have been working for more than three years and have not been made regular;

(c) whether Government have formulated any time bound programme for making them regular; if so, what are the details thereof;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) what are the guidelines which are being followed for the appointment of these workers on a regular basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R .NARAYANAN): (a) The services of thirteen Daily Wages Workers were regularised in 1987 when suitable vacancies were available.

(b) The number of Daily Wagers who have been working for more than 3 years and have not been made regular, is 31

(c) to (e) According to the instructions issued by the Government, if persons initially engaged for work for casual/seasonal/intermittant nature are in service of the Government for a minimum period of two years, with 240 days or more service (206 days or more in offices observing five-day-week) during each year, they could be considered for regular appointment against Group 'D' posts, provided they fulfil other conditions, such as, age, educational qualifications, etc. and if suitable vacancies are available. While considering them for regular appointment, they are given concession in upper age limit to the extent of the period spent by them as Daily Wages Workers.

As and when suitable vacancies are available in future, the daily wages workers would be regularised if they fulfil other conditions such as, age, educational qualification, etc.

Grants for design scientific equipments

1644. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Scientists are given grants by Government for design Scientific equipments;

(b) if so, what are the details of the money granted for such purposes during the last three years and the patented equipments by this departments;

(c) whether any such equipments are since being manufactured in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K R. NARAYANAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Grants-in-aid are given to R&D institutes to design Scientific instruments.

(b) Details are given below:

Year	Grants-in-aid given
1985-86 . . .	17.44 lakh
1986-87 . . .	53 60 lakh
1987-88 . . .	52.25 lakh

Department of Science & Technology do not issue any patent for the scientific equipment designed by the various institutions. The participating industries in the programmes are absorbing the technology for subsequent production.

(c) Yes, Sir.